

Staffed up: Schools name new teachers

There will be plenty of fresh faces in new places when Farmington Public Schools open Tuesday, Aug. 30. The district announced several teaching and staffing appointments at the board of education meeting Aug. 23.

Farmington High will see six new staff members. They include: Jennifer Esposito, mathematics teacher; Stephen Hawley, health and social studies teacher; Renee Loebl, social studies teacher; Donald McGregor, part-time science teacher; Jerry Osborne, Skills Center teacher; and James White, English teacher.

New staff members at Harrison High include: Ann Blansy, counselor; and Kathy Maganick, physics and math teacher.

North Farmington's new crew includes: James Demko, social studies teacher; Peggy Negarjan, biology and chemistry teacher; Jeffrey Simpson, mathematics teacher; and Kathleen Stays, English teacher.

East Middle School has three new staff members: Timothy Caruthers, English and social studies teacher; Jennifer Franklin, part-time computers; Cynthia Zervos, sixth-grade science and English teacher.

At O.E. Dunckel, new staff in-

The district announced several teaching and staffing appointments at the board of education meeting Aug. 23. Lorna Bussa will serve as the new elementary gifted coordinator and Gerald Fouchey as the new staff development trainer. There will be six new staff members at Farmington High School, two at Harrison, and four at North.

cludes: Nicole Champe, math and social studies teacher; and Ryan Potter, science and social studies teacher.

Starting new positions at Warner Middle School are: Cheryl Demerino, sixth- and seventh-grade language arts teacher; Michele Koester, sixth-grade language arts instructor; and Jill Mihance, seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher.

New hires at Flanders Elementary include: Rita Adams, teacher, who will also teach kindergarten at Hillside; Colleen Brinker, fourth-grade teacher; and Gaylann Rowe-Brown, Reading Recovery teacher.

At Wood Creek Elementary, there are three new teachers: Rhonda Hotchkin, kindergarten; Lisa Killingbeck, first grade; and Margaret Kulas, Reading Recovery.

Longacre Elementary welcomes two new teachers: Jody Chapman, third grade; and Julie Wright, fourth grade.

Joining the staff at Hillside are Mark Morawski, fifth-grade teacher; and Susan Ploette, Reading Recovery teacher.

Other teacher appointments include: Sara Pries, second-grade teacher, Highmeadow; Jeffrey Houston, resource room teacher, Power; Carolyn Kinsman, Early Fives teacher, Fairview; Suzanne Kwaniewicz, fifth-grade teacher, Eagle; Marie Lesica, teacher, Boys Republic; Tracy Pollin, fifth-grade teacher, Gill Year-round; and Deanne Shattuck, fourth grade teacher, Kenbrook.

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Fun balloons at Family Day



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nice catch: Jennifer Berberian, 9, of Farmington Hills attempts to hold on to a water balloon during the water balloon toss during the recent Family Day in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. There was food and fun and games for children of all ages.

Changes from page 1A

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Staff Development Judy White becomes the assistant superintendent for instructional services.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance Bruce Barrett is now assistant superintendent for business, finance and operational services.

Director of Building and Student Services Don Cowan becomes executive director for instruction and student services. Cowan will report to Judy White.

Director of Personnel Bob Coleman is now executive director for personnel services. Coleman will report to Sue Zurvalec.

The position of assistant to the superintendent for community relations is eliminated under the plan.

Pam O'Malley, who served in the position, was appointed principal of O.E. Dunckel Middle School. Her position will be combined with director of School/Community Relations.

Zurvalec's status is affected most.

She'll oversee the district's adult and community education and community relations programs as well as employee personnel matters. She remains the district's chief labor negotiator.

Maxfield asked the board to consider a pay raise to coincide with the upgrade in her position.

Zurvalec was a finalist for the Ferndale schools superintendent's post and is highly regarded as a personnel director.

"I'm certainly thrilled with the opportunity and delighted with the selection to that position," Zurvalec said.

Cowan will shed some duties while picking up new ones as executive director for instruction and student services.

Cowan becomes a point-man for building principals. There was confusion over who principals reported to in the past, Maxfield said.

"He (Cowan) would be the focal point of that one-stop shopping," Maxfield said.

Cowan is pleased, too.

"It's nice to get back to the instruction end of it now that I've been away from it for five years," said Cowan, who was building principal in the district for several years before moving to the central office.



Bruce Barrett



Don Cowan



Bob Coleman



Sue Zurvalec

The Board of Education backed the plan unanimously. Several administrators have new titles and responsibilities in the reshuffling, which creates three separate divisions for instruction, staff and community relations, and operations and finance.

Cowan will no longer handle transportation and building matters, except those directly affecting instruction.

Instead, Barrett will inherit those in his expanded role. He'll remain the district's chief financial officer, but will oversee day-to-day operations.

Three distinct divisions with assistant superintendents heading each one reduces the number

of people having to report directly to the superintendent, Maxfield said. "Which is more than one person can efficiently handle," he added.

Board members praised the restructuring.

"If it makes everyone's life more simplified by having everything more specified, I think that's terrific," trustee Bobbie Feldman said.

Hills woman to receive educator of year award

Ellen Hechler of Farmington Hills has been named Educator of the Year by the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

She will receive the award at the DACTM's annual conference in Plymouth Oct. 8. Hechler is past president of the organization, presents workshops for all its members, and stays actively involved.

Marvin Weingarten, president, will present the award. Hechler

has written a book dealing with practical life skills in the mathematics classroom. She has also designed several math card games used in the middle school classroom.

She has traveled around the country to present her workshop at mathematics conferences. Hechler teaches mathematics at Rudman School in Detroit. She is currently working on her doctoral dissertation at Wayne State University.



Ellen Hechler

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